

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 15819 01 OF 02 011507Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 COA-02 CG-00 INT-08 COME-00 DLOS-06

EB-11 DOTE-00 IO-14 FMC-04 SS-20 NSC-10 H-03 DRC-01

(ISO) W

----- 007351

R 011354Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8465

INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15819

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, IC, GW

SUBJECT: FISHERIES DISPUTE: FRG-GOI DISCUSSIONS

REF: A. REYKJAVIK 1241; B. REYKJAVIK 1255; C. REYKJAVIK
1267

1. SUMMARY. FRG FONOFF SOURCE BELIEVES SOLUTION OF FRG-GOI DISPUTE POSSIBLE ALTHOUGH SHE EXPRESSED MILD DISAPPOINTMENT WITH LAST NEGOTIATING SESSION. SHE SEES RECENT GOI CABINET ACTIVITY AS HOPEFUL SIGN. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED THE FRG-ICELAND FISHING DISPUTE WITH MRS. VOLLMAR OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE LEGAL DIVISION. VOLLMAR PARTICIPATED IN THE OCTOBER 22 NEGOTIATIONS IN REYKJAVIK ALONG WITH THE FOLLOWING FRG OFFICIALS: FOREIGN OFFICE PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY
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PAGE 02 BONN 15819 01 OF 02 011507Z

APEL (LEADER OF THE DELEGATION), AGRICULTURE MINISTRY

PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY LOGEMANN AND HIS FISHERIES ASSISTANT MOECKLINGHOFF; AND FONOFF OFFICIALS FLEISCHHAUER AND KAUFFMAN-BUEHLER (VOLLMAR'S REPLACEMENT). VOLLMAR CHARACTERIZED THE NEGOTIATIONS AS ABBREVIATED, SINCE THEY LASTED ONLY TWO AND ONE HALF HOURS. ACCORDING TO HER, GOI FOREIGN MINISTER AUGUSTSSON ASKED APEL TO BREAK OFF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THE GOI CABINET COULD NOT REACH AGREEMENT ON THE QUESTION OF PERMITTING FISHING BY FRG FACTORY SHIPS UNDER ANY NEW AGREEMENT. VOLLMAR THOUGHT THE CABINET'S FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT WAS DUE TO THE ATTEMPTS BY FISHERIES MINISTER JOSEFSSON TO BLOCK ANY SOLUTION BY BRINGING UP ISSUES PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED UNIMPORTANT, OR BY DIGGING HIS HEELS IN ON ISSUES ON WHICH THE FRG CAN'T EASILY COMPROMISE.

3. THE QUESTION OF FACTORY SHIPS IS AN ISSUE IN THIS LATTER CATEGORY. VOLLMAR TOOK A RATHER HARD LINE ON THE FACTORY SHIPS ISSUE STATING THAT, AT PRESENT, OF 87 FRG SHIPS, 39 ARE FREEZER OR FACTORY SHIPS, WHILE THE REMAINING 48 ARE WET TRAWLERS. ICELAND'S DEMAND THAT ALL FACTORY SHIPS BE FORBIDDEN FROM FISHING ZONES WOULD MEAN A 45 PERCENT CUT IN AVAILABLE SHIPS AND WOULD MORE IMPORTANTLY PLACE AN IMMENSE ECONOMIC BURDEN ON FISHERMEN WHO ARE PRESENTLY REPLACING THEIR WET TRAWLERS WITH FACTORY SHIPS. SINCE THE FACTORY SHIPS WOULD NOT CATCH OR PROCESS ANY MORE FISH THAN WOULD BE AGREED UPON BY THE FRG AND GOI, ACCORDING TO VOLLMAR, THE ISSUE IS NOT ONE OF SUBSTANCE.

4. ON REMAINING ISSUES, VOLLMAR SAID THE FRG DELEGATION WAS SURPRISED THAT ICELAND DID NOT WANT TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF CATCH SIZE, AT LEAST DURING THESE DISCUSSIONS. SHE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE QUESTION OF POLICING VIOLATIONS (SEE PARA 3 OF BONN 12986) WAS NOT YET RESOLVED AND THAT THE QUESTION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF THE FISHING

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PAGE 01 BONN 15819 02 OF 02 011510Z

46

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 15819

ZONE ACCORDING TO A DRAFT FRG PROPOSAL WAS A SUBJECT REFERRED TO AN EXPERTS WORKING GROUP (SEE PARA 3 OF BONN 9623).

5. AT PRESENT NO NEW NEGOTIATING DATES HAVE BEEN SET AND THE FRG IS AWAITING THE NEXT GOI INITIATIVE, ACCORDING TO VOLLMAR. NOTWITHSTANDING THE DISCOURAGEMENT THAT IS FELT IN THE FRG OVER THE LAST, UNSUCCESSFUL SESSION, VOLLMAR CONTINUES TO BELIEVE A SOLUTION IS POSSIBLE. SHE THOUGHT IT ALL DEPENDED UPON THE STRENGTH OF THE ICELANDIC CABINET IN DEALING WITH THEIR FISHERIES MINISTER. VOLLMAR BELIEVES THE CABINET DECISION TO APPOINT MINISTER AUGUSTSSON OF MFA AS THE SOLE ICELANDIC NEGOTIATOR WILL GREATLY SIMPLIFY THE NEGOTIATIONS. COUPLED WITH WHAT SHE CALLED "ICELANDIC PUBLIC OPINION WEARINESS WITH FISHERY ISSUE," SHE THOUGHT THERE APPEARED TO BE PROGRESS TOWARD REACHING AN AGREEMENT.

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PAGE 02 BONN 15819 02 OF 02 011510Z

6. VOLLMAR SAID THERE WERE NO NATO-RELATED DISCUSSIONS DURING THE TRIP.

7. ON THE QUESTION OF A POSSIBLE UK-GOI AGREEMENT, VOLLMAR WAS QUICK TO EMPHASIZE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE UK'S AND THE FRG'S FISHING PROBLEM. HOWEVER SHE INDICATED THAT SHOULD ICELAND AND THE UK REACH AGREEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO THE ENTIRE GOI, IT WOULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT IMPACT ON THE FRG DISPUTE SINCE IT WOULD EXHIBIT A DECISION BY THE CABINET TO OVERCOME FISHERY MINISTER

JOSEFSSON'S OPPOSITION.

8. COMMENT. VOLLMAR REITERATED THE WELL KNOWN, BY THIS TIME, FRG LINE THAT THE ONLY OBSTACLE TO CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT IS JOSEFSSON'S OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS. HOWEVER, EVEN THOUGH THERE IS A FEELING OF EXASPERATION DUE TO THE MOST RECENT DISCUSSIONS, IT STILL APPEARS THAT THE FRG IS INTENT ON TRYING TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. END COMMENT.
HILLENBRAND

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